

Latham's 'Synopsis,' and the *Procellaria marina* of the same author's 'Index Ornithologicus.'

The bird is now known to have a wide range in the southern hemisphere. Gould's collector Gilbert discovered it breeding on some of the small islands lying off Cape Leewin, South-western Australia, in December, where he procured numbers of its eggs as well as many examples of the adult birds. He also met with it on a small island about three miles south of East Wallaby Island in January, when the young birds were almost ready to leave their holes (Gould, B. Austr. vol. vii. pl. 61). The most northern locality where *P. marina* has been observed hitherto is the Canary Isles. Here it would appear to be not common, though many observers have either procured specimens or recognized it when flying over the sea. The bird from these islands was named *Procellaria hypoleuca* by Webb and Berthelot. Mr. Salvin concludes his notes by remarking that "the specimen from Walney Island agrees closely with examples from the South Seas and the Canary Islands now in the British Museum." I should be happy to submit the specimen to any brother member of the B. O. U. who may entertain any desire to see it. The other species, *Oceanites oceanicus*, had previously occurred in the N.W. of England (Macpherson & Duckworth, 'Birds of Cumberland,' p. 181).

XLIX.—*Notes on Woodpeckers.*—No. XVIII. *On two new Species from the Pilcomayo.* By EDWARD HARGITT, F.Z.S.

MR. SCLATER has been good enough to place in my hands some Woodpeckers collected by Mr. Graham Kerr, who accompanied the Pilcomayo Expedition, and whose researches in the highly interesting region explored, when fully made known to the world, will not only prove to be of great scientific value, but add much to his already well-earned reputation as an energetic and devoted naturalist. I must refer the reader to the extracts from Mr. Graham Kerr's letters, published in 'The Ibis' for January and April 1891, which

contain a graphic account of the peculiar wilderness or palm-desert traversed by the Expedition. The specimens entrusted to me consist of two males and one female *Celeus*, likewise two males and one female *Picumnus*, and Mr. Sclater has expressed his opinion that the *Celeus* is new, and wishes it to bear the name of its discoverer. I quite agree with Mr. Sclater in his determination of this bird, and, in compliance with his wish, name it *Celeus kerri*. The *Picumnus* is also new to science, and will bear the name of *pilcomayensis*, as suggested by Mr. Sclater.

Below will be found diagnoses of the two species.

† 1. *CELEUS KERRI*, sp. n.

Adult male. Resembles *C. lugubris*, but differs in having the upper part of the back, the scapulars, and the wing-coverts nearly black, with a brownish or slightly olivescient tinge, and the transverse markings narrower and fewer; the underparts blackish brown, nearly as dark as the back, and with less rufous on the under tail-coverts; the quills brownish black, and the exposed rufous bars on the secondaries very much narrower, being about one fifth the width of the interspaces (the rufous bars in *C. lugubris* being about one half the width of the darker interspaces). The wing, seen from below, is very different; the base of the inner webs of the primaries and the barring on these, as well as upon the inner webs of the secondaries (except close to the shaft), being white; the under wing-coverts and axillaries white, with scarcely any yellow tinge. The dimensions are also greater. Total length 10·0 inches, culmen 1·18, wing 5·9, tail 3·2, tarsus 1·0; toes (without claws)—outer anterior 0·9, outer posterior 0·83, inner anterior 0·62, inner posterior 0·38. Type, Rio Pilcomayo, 4.5.90. No. 95 on label.

Adult female. Differs from the adult male in the absence of red on the malar region, this being blackish brown, the feathers having buff margins. Total length 10·0 inches, culmen 1·12, wing 5·7, tail 3·3, tarsus 1·02. Rio Pilcomayo, 20.3.90. No. 25 on label.

In this specimen the upper back, scapulars, and wing-

coverts are more olive-brown, and the under surface of the body is devoid of rufous spots; but these differences are, no doubt, due to season or age, and are not sexual, as a second male from the same locality, dated March 31st, 1890 (No. 33 on label), has the underparts also without rufous spots.

I think there can be no doubt that the bird represented in Malherbe's monograph (plate liv. fig. 2) as the female of *C. lugubris* should be referred to the present species, the difference between it and the figure of the male on the same plate being very striking, and it would be interesting to know the locality whence Malherbe obtained this dark-coloured female.

Although confident of the specific value of *C. kerri*, I may remark that some of the species of the genus *Celeus* are subject to great variation, and that the paucity of skins of many of the rarer ones, combined with the often very imperfect record of their capture, renders it most difficult to determine the species. I am under the impression that certain specimens (not bearing any definite localities) which have proved a great puzzle to me, and have been placed under the species to which they have appeared to belong, will yet be found to be distinct and to occupy special areas. These points I shall be better able to pronounce upon when I again visit the Paris Museum and have an opportunity of studying some specimens contained therein.

+ 2. *PICUMNUS PILCOMAYENSIS*, sp. n.

Adult male. This species is intermediate between *P. cirrhatus* and *P. orbignyanus*, possessing some of the characters of each. It differs from *P. cirrhatus* in wanting the brown auricular spot, and in having the back and scapulars of a greyer or more dusky brownish (not olivescient brown), crossed by smoky-white bars (*P. cirrhatus* has sometimes transverse bars, but they are of a different colour); the flanks and thighs without any buff tinge. The present species differs from *P. orbignyanus* in being clearly *barred* with black upon the whole of the underparts, the upper parts being *barred*, more or less distinctly, with smoky or brownish white (not

spotted). Total length 3·5 inches, culmen 0·42, wing 2·0, tail 1·25, tarsus 0·5; toes (without claws)—outer anterior 0·33, outer posterior 0·33, inner anterior 0·25, inner posterior 0·2. Type, Rio Pilcomayo. Although this specimen has no label, I have selected it as the type on account of its being (apparently) more fully adult than the other male in the collection.

Adult female. Differs from the adult male in wanting the red on the sincipital feathers, these being black, with rounded spots of white, as upon the posterior part of the crown and the occiput. Total length 3·3 inches, culmen 0·4, wing 2·0, tail 1·25, tarsus 0·5. Rio Pilcomayo, 28.6.90. No. 125 on label.

A male from the island opposite Empedrado, February 9th, 1890 (No. 6 on label), having the wing shorter, but with the black barring below equally intense with the male described, and the top of the head apparently that of a fully adult bird, has, if anything, the back more regularly barred with smoky or brownish white; the quills and their coverts are abraded, and the light margins are consequently not so well marked; the under wing-coverts are more fluffy and have dusky spots, and the inner margins of the quills (below) are tinged with buff. In some respects only this specimen seems to be immature.

It is not surprising that the Pilcomayo should possess a species of *Picumnus* allied to both the Brazilian *P. cirrhatus* and *P. orbignyana*, which latter I take to be the bird obtained by Mr. Durnford at Salta, and of which there are three females in the British Museum. Below I append a key, which may facilitate the recognition of the three species of *Picumnus* under consideration:—

- A. With brown auricular spot; back olivaceous brown . . . *cirrhatus*.
- B. Without any brown auricular spot.
 - a'. Back with rounded whitish spots; underparts with transverse, squamate, and sagittate spots of black *orbignyana*.
 - b'. Back barred with smoky or brownish white; underparts entirely and clearly barred with black *pilcomayensis*.